

To: Superintendents and Test Coordinators  
From: Margo Healy, Director of Assessment and Accountability  
Date: August 8, 2008  
Re: Test Coordinators Update: 2008 ISAT Release This Week

Greetings to all of you,

In response to your concerns for the incoming 10<sup>th</sup> grade students who have not taken an ISAT for two years, the Board requested that incoming 10<sup>th</sup> grade students be allowed to take the Graduation Test in the fall of 2008. The plan to offer a fall opportunity was approved by the US Department of Education today, August 8, 2008.

**Do not be confused, this is NOT the 10<sup>th</sup> grade adaptive test!**

**Each district will have the option of testing incoming 10<sup>th</sup> grade students within the fall window. Test coordinators will be required to prepare and upload a file of 10<sup>th</sup> graders in addition to retesting 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> graders. All students testing in the fall window will take the Graduation Test. Test coordinators will be hearing from DRC about the procedures very soon!**

- Students will be allowed to bank all *proficient* and *advanced* test scores.
- Banked scores will be counted for AYP proficiency and participation determinations in spring 2009.

**Frequently Asked Questions:**

- 1. How will we account for all 10<sup>th</sup> graders when the spring tests and AYP calculation comes around?**  
All student test scores will be tracked and recorded by DRC and CAL.
- 2. Will students who bank proficient and advanced scores in the fall be included for participation in the spring?**  
Yes, all tests scores banked for 10<sup>th</sup> grade students during fall 2008 testing will count for participation in AYP calculations in spring 2009.
- 3. If a district chooses the option of testing, do they have to test all students?**  
Each district has the option to test or not test some, none or all of their 10<sup>th</sup> grade students. Districts will decide who will test. It is entirely a local district option.
- 4. What about the winter retest window?**  
The winter retest window will be open to re-testing 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> graders only. No 10<sup>th</sup> grade students will be allowed to take the winter retest administration.
- 5. Why is the Board offering this option?**  
The Board heard from many stakeholders regarding the loss of the 9<sup>th</sup> grade test. They heard concerns that a two-year gap might be especially detrimental to the at-risk students and a hardship for schools who would like data to inform interventions. This is a short-term answer until the state can fund the development of a 9<sup>th</sup> grade ISAT.